



ANNUAL REPORT

of Sanitary Conditions of
the Rural District of
Vaynor and Penderyn in
the County of Brecknock
for the Year 1939

by

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

E. LUMLEY, PRINTER, MERTHYR TYDFIL.



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**VAYNOR AND PENDERYN
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Chairman, 1939-40 :

Councillor PENRY MORRIS, J.P.

Members :

Alderman DAVID HARRIS, J.P.

Councillor DANIEL E. WATKINS

„ EVAN L. LEWIS

„ TUDOR S. DAVIES

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„ Rev. MORGAN JONES

„ IDRIS SILVANUS

„ W. G. ECKLEY

„ DANIEL JENKINS

Clerk :

Mr. FRANK T. JAMES,
134 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil

Medical Officer :

Dr. W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
The Hollies, Merthyr Tydfil.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. W. G. BOND, A.R.S.I.,
134 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil

Treasurers :

BARCLAYS BANK, LIMITED,
Merthyr Tydfil.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE VAYNOR AND PENDERYN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Welsh Board of Health has intimated that the Minister has directed that while for the present he is satisfied that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should not be discontinued, he is of opinion that they should be considerably shortened. These reports, it is suggested, should be confined to essential and urgent matters which had affected the public health during the past year, especially matters arising from the war, and of Infectious Disease. It was added that the annual returns of the Registrar General would not be available until July. These returns reached me on October 1st.

Topography.—The district consists of Three Parishes of Vaynor, Penderyn, and Ystradfellte, in the Southern part of the County of Brecon, the Brecknock Beacons and their foot hills form the Northern boundary of the District, and the Southern boundary is formed by the Districts of Merthyr Tydfil, Aberdare, and Neath Rural in the County of Glamorgan. The district is hilly, and the elevation varies from 263 feet to 2,250 feet.

Area.—The total area of the district is 39,271 acres, and has an average length of 8 miles, and a width of 12 miles.

POPULATION.

Registrar General's estimate of—

(a) Resident population (National Register)	...	5263
(b) Average population for calculation of death rate	... ..	5251

Number of inhabited houses (30th September, 1939) :—

Parish of Penderyn	...	...	429
Parish of Vaynor	...	...	871 (4 empty)
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	...	151
Total	...	...	1451

RATEABLE VALUE.

As on 30th September, 1939 :—

Parish of Penderyn	...	£12,316
Parish of Vaynor	...	£19,320
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£6,395
Total	...	£38,031

PRODUCT OF PENNY RATE.

Parish of Penderyn	...	£48	5	10
Parish of Vaynor	...	£80	18	2
Parish of Ystradfellte	...	£26	0	4
Total	...	£155	4	4

POPULATION (CENSUS RETURN).

<i>Census, 1931.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Penderyn	973	885	1858
Vaynor	1544	1619	3163
Ystradfellte	341	309	650
			5671

<i>Census Returns.</i>	<i>Year</i> 1901	<i>Year</i> 1911	<i>Year</i> 1921	<i>Year</i> 1931
Vaynor and Penderyn	4766	5526	5674	5021
Ystradfellte	...	627	613	650

The decrease from 1921 to 1931 of the three Parishes was 9.8 per cent.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The population per acre for the Rural District is only .14. It is sparsely scattered over a wide area, except for four or five villages in Vaynor and Penderyn, the Parish of Ystradfellte has a density of only .033 per acre; the principal occupation is in the coal mines of the adjoining districts of Merthyr, Aberdare and Neath. Some of the inhabitants are employed in the quarrying of local stone. The remainder are engaged in agriculture, mostly sheep farming. There has been, and still is, considerable unemployment in the district, principally due to the restricted coal industry in the local coalfield.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The Births in the Rural District numbered 77, compared with 67 in 1938 and 68 in 1937. Illegitimate Births were 4.

Birth Rate.—The rate of live births per 1,000 of the population was therefore 14.6, compared with 12.79 in the previous year and 12.88 in 1937. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1939 is given by the Registrar General as 15.6, and that for Brecon County in 1938 was 13.96.

Still Births numbered 5, compared with 8 in 1938. The rate of Still Births in the District was .95, compared with 1.5 in 1938. The rate in England and Wales for 1939 was .59, and that of Brecon County in 1938 was .92. This rate is excessive in this district but shows some improvement at the higher birth rate and the lower still birth rate suggests some increase in the prosperity of the district.

Live Births were: legitimate, 40 males and 33 females, making a total of 73. Illegitimate, 2 males and 2 females, making a total of 4. There was no still born illegitimate child.

The rate of Still Births per 1,000 of the population was 64.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths recorded, which included 15 deaths of residents occurring out of the district, and excluding one death of a non-resident, was 79 (47 males, 32 females) compared with 87 in the previous year.

Death Rate.—Calculated on the average population was 15 per 1,000. The rate for 1938 was 16.69. The rate for England and Wales, as furnished by the Registrar General in 1939, was 12.1 per 1,000, and that for Brecon County in 1938 was 12.89 per 1,000.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.—There was no death assigned to these causes during the year.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.—There were 7 deaths of infants under 1 year old, 5 males and 2 females, one of them was an illegitimate child. In respect of these, 7 deaths were assigned to premature birth or congenital debility; 2 to convulsions; 1 to gastro enteritis; 1 to pre-natal illness of the mother. In one case an inquest was held (death due to convulsions). Two of the infants died in hospital.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births was 90.9. Legitimate infants, 82 per 1,000 legitimate live births, and illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 250.

Death from Cancer.—All ages, 10 (8 males, 2 females).

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough or any other notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis, and there was no death from diarrhoea under 2 years of age.

Other Causes of Death include 23 from Heart Diseases; 6 from Tuberculosis; 7 from Bronchitis and forms of Pneumonia; 7 from Cerebral Haemorrhage; 8 from Senility.

Causes of Sickness.—I have no evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of the inhabitants.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers.—The Medical Officer of Health possesses the D.P.H. The Sanitary Inspector, who is also the Sanitary Engineer Surveyor, has the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and has a certificate for Meat Inspection; he has one clerk. Another Sanitary Inspector, in my opinion, is necessary.

Laboratory Services.—The services of R. Pendrill Charles, Esq., I.C.S. Public Analyst and Bacteriologist, are frequently used, and samples of milk are also sent to Aberystwyth University College.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are adequately provided for the local hospitals, and the Council has recently made arrangements to extend such provision to the smaller villages and outlying districts.

Nursing in the Homes.—Grant in aid is given to Cefn Coed Nursing Association for mid-wifery, health visiting and school-nursing by the County Council, and a whole-time midwife is provided by the County Council for Penderyn and Ystradfellte.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are in existence at Cefn Coed and at Hirwaun.

Tuberculosis Centres.—There is no Tuberculosis Centre for diagnosis and treatment of cases of tuberculosis in the district ; such cases are seen at the Centres at Merthyr and Aberdare.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—The Public Institution Hospital for the district is at Brecon. Good provision for sickness and accidents is afforded by the Merthyr General Hospital and Aberdare Hospital. There is no hospital for Infectious Disease, and arrangements exist for the admission of both cases to Mardy Hospital, Merthyr, when possible, although a Joint County Hospital for such cases at Brecon has been approved but sanction to proceed with the work has not been given during the war emergency.

Milk Supply.—Farms and Dairies are visited, and samples of milk have been sent for bacteriological examination. In one instance it was found that milk was being sent to a dairy where a case of tuberculosis had been reported. The dairy was closed and a new dairy was provided elsewhere.

Meat and Other Foods.—These have been kept under regular observation, and the only slaughterhouse in the district visited when slaughtering has been carried on, by the Sanitary Inspector, who has a meat inspection certificate. Shops where meat and other foods are for sale are also inspected.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1939.

DISEAS.		Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	2	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality in 1939.

Age periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
1 to 5 years	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 „	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 „	1	2	—	2	—	2	—	1
25 to 35 „	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35 to 45 „	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	1	8	1	3	1	3	—	1

Non-notified Deaths from Tuberculosis.—There was one such death. This occurred in a Public Institution, and it was stated that it was supposed that the case had been notified prior to admission. It was a case of Tuberculosis Meningitis, and no action was taken, except drawing attention to the omission. There is no evidence to suppose any particular occupation caused excess of cases of Tuberculosis.

HOUSING.

Up to 31st December, 1939, 94 new houses had been executed and occupied to deal with Slum Clearance and overcrowding, namely 44 houses at Cefn Coed and 50 houses at Hirwaun, and 8 houses at Hirwaun were in course of erection at the outbreak of the war. Their completion was suspended, but later in the Spring of 1940 permission was given to complete them. The Council has prepared plans and secured sites by purchase or arbitration for a further 99 houses, viz., 77 houses at Cefn Coed, 6 at Pontsticill, 6 at Penderyn, and 10 at Pontneathvaughan. These will be erected as soon as sanction is given, and the total number of 201 houses will, in a great measure, deal with the question of insanitary houses and overcrowding in the district.

EVACUATION.

The Council made complete preparation for the reception of evacuees which it was anticipated might be sent into the area, and provided and equipped a hostel of 12 beds, but up to the present no assignment of such cases has been made to the district.

DRAINING AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

I have to record that the sewerings and disposal works at Penderyn has now been completed, and the villages of Cefn Coed, Pontsticill, Hirwaun, Penderyn and Pontneathvaughan have now been provided in this respect. The small hamlet at Ystradfellte remains to be undertaken, and the modernising of the outfall works at Hirwaun should receive early attention.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward from 31st March, 1938	4589	10	4½

Rate Income—

General Expenses chargeable upon the whole District	29196	0	7
Special Rates	2361	17	1
Water Rates (Penderyn)	77	9	6
Water Charges (Ystradfellte)	0	6	0

Ministry of Health—

Parochial Exchequer Grants	191	10	0
Tithe Act Grant	305	16	0

Ministry of Labour—

Grant—Penderyn Waterworks	97	12	8
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County Council—

Salaries of Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector...	220	0	0
Proportion of Parochial Exchequer Grants	150	15	0
Scavenging	96	10	6

Other Income—

Rentals of Gardens—Cefn Sewerage Works	0	8	6
Rent of Garden—Cefn Coed (Cefn Isaf)	0	1	0
Public Conveniences—Pontsarn	1	14	0
do Pontsticill	0	10	10
do Penderyn	2	14	2
do Ystradfellte	0	0	7
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	22	0	0
Housing (Slum Clearance, etc.) Acts	1	15	2
Cefn—Lighting	0	4	6
Extracts from Valuation List for H.M.I. of Taxes	0	6	3
Searches—Land Charges Register	4	14	0
Petrol Licenses	5	10	0
Certificates—Rent, etc., Act, 1938	0	2	0
Milk License	0	10	6
Certificate as to state of repair	0	1	0
Bank Interest	59	18	3

Total £37,387 18 5½

for the Year ended 31st March, 1939 (Part I.)

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Due under Precepts—			
Breconshire County Council	25568	1	3
Breconshire Assessment Committee ... ..			...
Vaynor Parish Council... ..	60	0	0
Penderyn Parish Council	12	0	0
Ystradfellte Parish Council	39	18	11
Other Expenses—			
Cefn Coed Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	359	6	9
do do Loan and Interest	552	0	0
Pontsticill Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	86	18	6
do do Loan and Interest	108	18	6
Hirwaun Sewerage Works—Working Expenses	244	1	9
Penderyn Sewerage Works—Loan and Interest	90	15	8
Pontneathvaughan Sewerage—Working Expenses	120	4	3
do do Loan and Interest	115	9	2
Hirwaun Sewerage— <i>re</i> Housing Scheme—Loan & Interest	7	3	3
Penderyn Waterworks—Working Expenses	95	10	5
do Loan and Interest	288	19	8
Cross Bychan Water Supply—Loan and Interest	10	0	0
Penderyn Water (Ogof Fawr)—Loan and Interest... ..	127	1	2
Scavenging—Penderyn Parish	57	10	0
do Vaynor Parish	309	15	8
do Ystradfellte Parish	13	0	0
Ystradfellte Water Supply—Working Expenses	3	17	0
Notification of Disease and General Disinfection	36	2	5
Salaries, etc.—Health Services	637	18	7
Public Conveniences—Pontsarn	19	18	9
do Pontsticill	4	1	0
do Penderyn	20	9	4
do Ystradfellte	247	17	10
Returns of Births and Deaths	1	1	10
Rate Fund Contribution to Housing Revenue Account	369	6	6
Annual Contribution do	300	12	1
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts	18	6	5
Public Lighting—Penderyn Parish	202	10	0
do Vaynor Parish	289	15	7
do Ystradfellte Parish	17	13	7
Fire Brigades	30	0	0
Valuation Expenses	225	1	8½
Telephone Kiosk—Cefn Coed	2	2	0
Yard and Shed Rentals	8	15	6
Council Yard Repairs	0	15	5
Salaries of Officers	278	0	0
Establishment Charges	311	6	0
Children's Playing Field, Cefn Coed—Loan and Interest	6	15	1
Housing (Slum Clearance, etc.) Acts	330	8	9
Cost of Collection—General Rate	637	7	6
do Special Rate	51	2	5½
Financial Adjustment—Interest on Loan Raised	123	19	2
Financial Adjustment—Expenditure and Interest	1078	2	0
Miscellaneous Payments—Roadside Seats, £82/8/3; National Insurances, £36/6/0; Other Payments, £90/4/2	208	18	5
Financial Adjustment—Legal Expenses	251	0	11
Balance carried forward	3407	17	9½
Total	£37,387	18	5½

LOAN AND CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

INCOME.				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balances brought forward—									
Housing	...	...	...	5919	10	6			
Sewerage	...	...	...	1742	4	6			
							7661	15	0
Small Dwelling Acquisition—									
Repayment of Advances	...						19	10	0
Housing—									
Loans raised	...	...					1023	0	0
Revenue and Special Accounts									
(Repairs and Equalisation)	...						501	13	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	...				10	8	6
Playing Fields—									
Loans raised	...	...	...				1027	0	0
Sewerage—									
Loans raised	...	...	...				3092	0	0
Government Grants	...	...					3100	0	0
Revenue Account	...	...					4	5	6
Public Convenience—									
Revenue Account	...	...					247	17	10
Water Supply—									
Revenue Account	...	...					4	16	0
Miscellaneous	...	...	...				20	0	0
Financial Adjustment—									
Loan raised	...	...	...				8340	0	0
Revenue Account	...	...					251	0	11
Balances carried forward—									
Small Dwelling Acquisition	...			6	10	0			
Water Supply	...	...		96	14	0			
Housing	...	...	...	488	19	2			
							592	3	2
Total							£25,895	10	6

FRANK T. JAMES,

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer to the Council.

Part II.

EXPENDITURE.					
		£	s.	d.	£ s. d.
Balances brought forward—					
Small Dwelling Acquisition	...	8	13	4	
Water Supply...	...	95	9	5	
Playing Fields	...	170	5	9	
Financial Adjustment	...	251	0	11	
					525 9 3
Small Dwelling Acquisition—					
Capital Expenditure	...				17 6 8
Housing—					
Expended on Works	...				7942 2 7
Miscellaneous	...				1 9 2
Playing Fields—					
Expended on Works	...				20 18 11
Sewerage—					
Expended on Works	...				6725 8 0
Public Convenience—					
Expended on Works	...				247 17 10
Water Supply—					
Expended on Works	...				26 0 9
Financial Adjustments—					
Expended by Council	...				8340 0 0
Balances carried forward—					
Playing Fields	...	835	15	4	
Sewerage	...	1213	2	0	
					2048 17 4
Total	...				£25,895 10 6

Audited and found correct,—

A. R. PARR,

Assistant District Auditor.

5th September, 1939.





